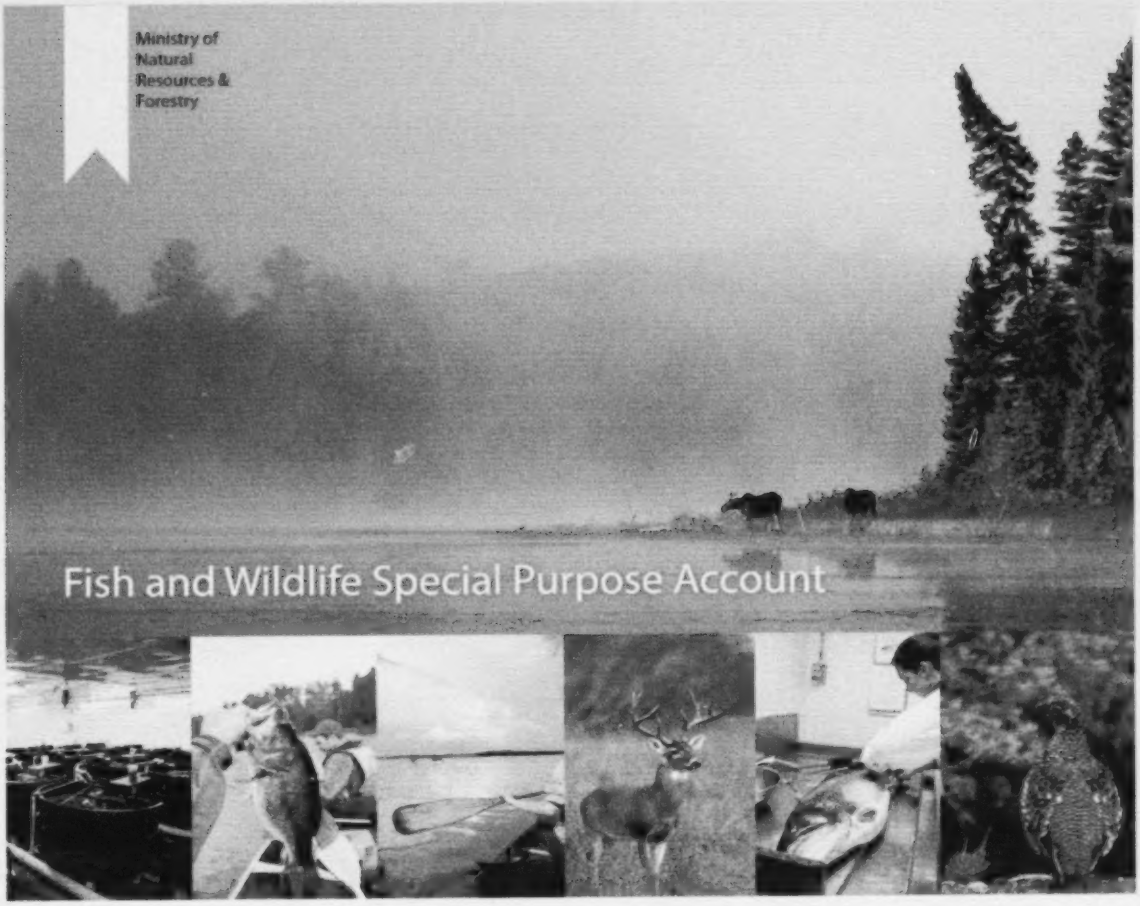

Annual Report

2013 - 2014

Ontario

Cette publication hautement spécialisée Special Purpose Account Expenditure Report n'est disponible qu'en Anglais en vertu du Règlement 411/97 qui en exempte l'application de la Loi sur les services en français. Pour obtenir de l'aide en français, veuillez communiquer avec FLS Information Access Representative au ministère des Richesses naturelles et Forêts au outdoorscard.mnr@ontario.ca

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INTRODUCTION

Ontario's fish and wildlife resources are rich and diverse. The province has more than 250,000 inland lakes and thousands of kilometres of rivers and streams, extensive forests and wetlands across 4 ecological regions. These provide important habitat for more than 145 species of fish, 57 types of amphibians and reptiles, 85 species of mammals, 400 species of birds, numerous insects and other micro-organisms. This diversity contributes to our environmental, social, cultural and economic well-being.

MNRF is responsible for fish and wildlife management which includes policy, planning and program development/delivery to sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations for years to come in Ontario. In 1995 the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) established a separate account to serve as the financial mechanism to dedicate fish and wildlife revenue to fish and wildlife management. All licence fees, fines and royalties collected under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* (FWCA) flow into the Fish and Wildlife Special Purpose Account (FW SPA) and are applied to fish and wildlife management programs such as monitoring populations and enforcing regulations.

Pursuant to section 85.4 of the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*, the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry is required to ensure that a report is prepared annually on the financial affairs of the FW SPA. This annual report of the 2013-14 fiscal year provides an overview of the financial details and associated achievements delivered through the Fish and Wildlife Special Purpose Account.

FISH AND WILDLIFE HERITAGE COMMISSION

The Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission (FWHC), established under the provisions of the *Heritage Hunting and Fishing Act*, provides recommendations on matters referred to it by the Minister. The FWHC has a membership of eleven, including the commission chair who represent a cross-section of key interests in the sustainable use of our fish and wildlife resources. During the 2013-2014 fiscal year, the Minister had 9 members and a chair appointed to the Commission. The FWHC was active during this period and reviewed materials and/or provided input on a variety of issues including:

- Enhancement of the FW SPA
- Moose management
- The Provincial Fish Strategy
- The Bait Policy Review
- The Hunter Education Program
- The FW SPA Marketing Plan
- The Black Bear Management Pilot Program
- The proposed Invasive Species Act

Not all briefings and consultations led to specific recommendations for the Minister but in many cases the consultations helped to frame the program or policy. No formal recommendations were communicated to the Minister during 2013-14. The most recent recommendations to the Minister related to the FW SPA and are outlined in the following table along with the MNRF's response.

FWHC Recommendation (2012-13)	Ministry Response (2012-13)
Recommendation #1: • That a member of the Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission be considered for a direct role on the MNRF Corporate Advisory Team (CAT) for the FW SPA **Recommendation #2:** • MNRF commits to a funding formula to ensure that increased revenues to the FW SPA result in the delivery of an enhanced Fish and Wildlife Program through government contributing a set proportion of funds annually to the FW SPA.	• The Minister appreciates the early thinking and recommendations provided to him by the Commission. • The Corporate Advisory Team is an internal Ministry committee; however the Ministry commits to seeking the views and input on priorities from the Commission.

SERVICES FUNDED BY THE FW SPA

The MNRF supports the protection of the sustainability of fish and wildlife populations in many ways, including the following highlights:

Conservation Officers & Enforcement

- Safeguard the public interest by providing effective regulatory protection of Ontario's natural resources, environment and public safety.
- Maintain specialized units and services to support field enforcement, including a canine program, undercover and special investigations, and mobile offices in Conservation Officer vehicles.
- Conduct public outreach and education to increase awareness and knowledge and promote compliance with Ontario's *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*. Public outreach is conducted through attendance at sportsmen shows, delivering presentations to children in schools and engaging the public through various other venues.
- Approximately 77% of enforcement field activity is directed at fish and wildlife enforcement of which 43% is funded by the FW SPA.

Conservation Officers & Enforcement Fast Facts

Activity	2013-14 Target	2013-14 Actual	% achieved
Fish and Wildlife hours	**100,131**	**111,181**	**111%**
Public Outreach hours	**14,689**	**13,021**	**89%**

- The total amount of fish and wildlife activity by Conservation Officers exceeded the planned amount by 11%, however 2013-14 outreach hours were lower than planned.

In 2013-14 the FW SPA funded:

- Over 119,000 Conservation Officer contacts
- More than 93,000 Conservation Officer hours in the field
- Over 4,400 warnings
- Over 2,800 charges

Population Health, Rehabilitation & Enhancement

- Perform invasive species reporting, monitoring and control such as:
  - Asian Carp surveillance in Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair
  - Eradication efforts to control European Water Chestnut on the Ottawa River
- Wetlands habitat conservation work, including enhancement and rehabilitation of wetlands and waterfowl resources in support of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.
- Fish and wildlife disease surveillance and response.
- Monitoring for the fish food safety program for fish consumed by the public.
- Fish culture and stocking services which contributes to the genetic health of Ontario fisheries and contributes to increased angler and commercial fisheries success.

Population Health, Rehabilitation & Enhancement Fast Facts - Fish Culture Services

In recent years the MNRF has stocked up to 8.5 million fish weighing approximately 200 metric tons into more than 1,200 waterbodies annually as part of rehabilitation efforts and to provide angling opportunities. All targets and actuals in the table are in millions.

Activity	2013-14 Target (in millions)	2013-14 Revised Target	2013-14 Actual (in millions)	% achieved
Fish production for stocking into Great Lakes and inland lakes	8.5	7.61 *	6.01	**79% †**
Fish products (fertilized eggs and fry) for community hatchery partners for eventual stocking into public waters	2.0	1.1	1.48	**135%**
Fish products (fertilized eggs, fry and some adult fish) for academic institutions and government agencies to support research	n/a ‡	n/a ‡	.69	**n/a**
Fish products (fertilized eggs and fry) for commercial interests	n/a §	n/a §	.18	**n/a**

* Explanations of target reduction of 0.89 million fish as follows

- 0.45 million to account for fish that had to be stocked early because of drought effects
- 0.32 million due to weather-dependent shifts in spring stocking
- 0.12 million to account for chinook production to be attributed to net pen producers

† The majority (88%) of this shortfall of 1.6 million fish can be attributed to two factors:

- the inability of partners to collect the required number of fertilized eggs for both Muskellunge and Bloater resulting in a production shortfall of 0.2 million fish; and
- the number and quality of fertilized Walleye eggs collected during the wild spawn collection were insufficient to meet production targets, resulting in a shortfall of 1.2 million stocked fish. This was a result of two factors: (a) a shorter than normal spawning "window" when eggs could be collected; and (b) sub-optimal weather conditions during the months leading up to spawning resulted in the production of poor quality eggs which survived poorly during incubation.

‡ MNRF supports a vast array of research initiatives by both academic institutions and government agencies. All research requests are reviewed on a case by case basis and are subject to species and life stage availability. As such, targets are not regularly identified.

§ MNRF does not routinely canvass commercial producers to assess their potential interest in purchasing eggs and/or fry from MNRF facilities. As such, targets are not regularly identified. However, MNRF will occasionally sell eggs and/or fry to commercial producers if a request is made and if surplus product is available.

Outdoors Cards & Licensing

- Issue hunting and sport fishing and commercial fishing licences, tags, draws and seals to anglers, hunters and commercial fishers.
- Provide public support through the Outdoors Card Centre and the Natural Resources Information Centre.
- Sell an average of two million hunting and fishing licences annually, in turn generating an average revenue of $60 million per year to the FW SPA.

Outdoors Cards & Licensing Fast Facts

- Issued 672,681 Outdoors Cards, 1,066,771 fishing licences and 612,564 hunting licences to residents and non-residents of Ontario. The breakdown is as follows:

Ontario Resident Angling and Hunting Licence Sales	**Volume**	**Revenue**
Resident Fishing Outdoors Cards	317,547	$ 2,721,378
Resident Fishing Licences	693,358	$ 20,220,106
Resident Hunting Outdoors Cards	179,488	$ 1,538,212
Resident Hunting Licenses	588,163	$ 24,613,030
Total		**$ 49,092,726**
Non-Resident Angling and Hunting Licence Sales		
Canadian Resident Outdoors Cards	20,241	$ 173,465
Canadian Resident Fishing Licences	58,001	$ 1,557,753
Non-Resident Fishing Outdoors Cards	145,389	$ 1,245,984
Non-Resident Fishing Licences	315,412	$ 12,187,065
Non-Resident Hunting Outdoors Cards	10,016	$ 85,837
Non-Resident Hunting Licences	24,401	$ 3,750,897
Total		**$ 19,001,001**
Total Angling and Hunting Licence Sales Revenue		**$ 68,093,727**

2013 Big Game Draw Applications

- Processed 260,038 big game draw applications, of which approximately 75% were electronic applications (including telephone and Internet) and 25% were in-person applications.

Draw Type	**Telephone**	**Internet**	**In-Person**	**Total**
Moose	39,342	31,625	32,510	103,477
Antlerless Deer	61,018	27,934	26,720	115,672
Elk	1,262	734	290	2,286
Controlled Deer	24,675	9,233	4,695	38,603
Total	**126,297**	**69,526**	**64,215**	**260,038**

Safety, Education & Promotion

- Increase public awareness of the social, economic, health and lifestyle benefits of outdoor sport fishing and game hunting activities to build a strong recreational fishing and hunting heritage.
- Increase public awareness of the threat of invasive species and encourage positive actions by the public to prevent, detect, respond, manage and adapt to invasive species.

Safety, Education & Promotion Fast Facts

- Partnered with Ontario Parks to pilot a Learn to Fish program that reached 2,341 participants through delivery of 138 two-hour sessions at four provincial parks.
- 25,235 students completed the hunter education program, surpassing previous years' participation.
- Improved Fish ON-Line, including the addition of Fish Sanctuaries and regulation information, and other performance enhancements.

Species & Ecosystem Science

- Perform fish and wildlife population inventory monitoring and assessment such as:
    - Collect and analyze hunter surveys for deer, moose, bear, and wolf/coyote to determine the number of animals harvested and hunter effort to support management decisions.
    - Conduct Moose Aerial Surveys to determine the health of populations and the sustainable limit of harvest.
    - Conduct angler surveys, water quality testing, netting surveys and invasive species surveillance of 500 Ontario lakes to gather information and help manage fish populations.
    - Conduct long-term monitoring studies on a set of inland lakes and representative fish communities to help manage several large lakes with intensive fishing pressure.
- Perform research relating to population, habitats and ecosystems such as:
    - Partner with hunters to test over 500 harvested deer and elk for presence of Chronic Wasting Disease. All results have been negative to date.
    - Conduct research to assess the ecological impact of invasive species on Great Lakes food webs.
    - Conduct research to improve understanding of the genetics and stock structure of recreational and commercial fish species to support hatchery practices and stocking.
    - Study wildlife populations to determine the population, habitat use, and movement patterns for a variety of game such as elk, deer, moose, wolves, furbearers, and species at risk such as caribou, some bats, field nesting birds, and aerial insectivores.
    - Publish State of the Resource Reports to describe the condition, threats, trends and management response associated with specific areas, species, habitats or issue.

Species & Ecosystem Science Fast Facts

- Validated almost 11,000 commercial fish Daily Catch Records on Lake Erie (almost 17,000 province wide).
- Port Officers logged 440 port days, inspecting 2,300 commercial vessel landings across 11 ports.
- Tagged 433 Walleye in the Grand River, 400 Walleye in the Sydenham River and 785 Yellow Perch in the central basin of Lake Erie.
- Scanned 2.2 million pounds of Yellow Perch and 655,000 pounds of Walleye for tags across Lake Erie.
- In partnership with local anglers, moved 433 Walleye over the Dunnville dam (Grand River) to access prime spawning sites to support their Walleye hatchery.
- Stocked 54,000 Lake Trout in the east basin of Lake Erie as part of Lake Erie Committee efforts to meet Lake Erie's Lake Trout Management Plan restoration targets.
- Stocked over 1.6 million Lake Trout in Ontario waters of Lake Huron as a major part of the rehabilitation program for Lake Trout on Lake Huron.
- Collected 8,212 biological samples through 207 trips on-board commercial fishing vessels on Lake Huron.
- Conducted seven different offshore fish community assessment projects on Lake Huron where 5,592 biological samples were collected and 30 different species were observed.
- Conducted fish sampling including:
    - Lake Huron fall Lake Trout assessments, fishway monitoring in conjunction with local volunteers at two fishways, fall Walleye index netting in the French River delta and sampling at two local derby events.
    - Fall Walleye Index Netting in Black Bay in support of the Black Sturgeon Dam Environmental Assessment on Lake Superior.
    - Sampling salmon at the Thunder Bay Salmon Association week long salmon derby on Lake Superior.
    - Collecting samples from commercially caught fish species from various locations around Lake Superior.
    - Assessing coldwater stream fish populations.
- Conducted Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) surveys in critical areas of Lake Superior as part of a binational AIS monitoring initiative.
- Over 40 wildlife publications and 25+ graduate students working on high priority wildlife research projects.
- Mailed over 185,000 surveys to hunters (102,860 deer, 63,273 moose, 15,984 bear and 3,433 wolf/coyote surveys) and confirmed and compiled the information provided.

Planning, Policy & Regulatory Services

- Develop and implement resource management plans, policies, legislation, programs and standards related to recreational and commercial fisheries management and wildlife management.
- Support Wildlife Management Units, Fisheries Management Zones and Great Lakes Management Units.
- Public policy and legislation development.
- Implementation of the Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan and Policy Development.

Planning, Policy & Regulatory Services Fast Facts

- Issued 206 Ontario Commercial Fishing Licences on Lake Erie resulting in 24.8 million pounds of fish harvested for a landed value of $25.8 million.
- Set the total lake-wide catch limits at 4.027 million pounds for Walleye and 11.081 million pounds for Yellow Perch on Lake Erie.
- Drafted the Provincial Fish Strategy and posted it to the Environmental Registry for public consultation.
- Drafted Bill 167, the proposed Invasive Species Act, 2014 and introduced it in the Legislature in February 2014.
- Led the development of Ontario Moose Tourism Industry Information Management system to support moose policy implementation and moose management
- Continued the Provincial Bait policy review.
- Drafted Commercial Bycatch policy for consultation.
- Modernized approval process by harmonizing aquaculture-related licence terms and allowing persons to operate public educational aquariums without an aquaculture licence provided they follow rules in regulation.
- Continued to work with stakeholders to develop draft sediment licence conditions for cage aquaculture.
- Managed strategic partnerships and business agreements with the following organizations in support of hunter and trapper education, and administration of the trapping program:
    - Ontario Federation of Anglers of Hunters
    - Ontario Fur Managers Federation
    - Grand Council Treaty #3,
    - Nishnawbe Aski Nation,
    - Union of Ontario Indians

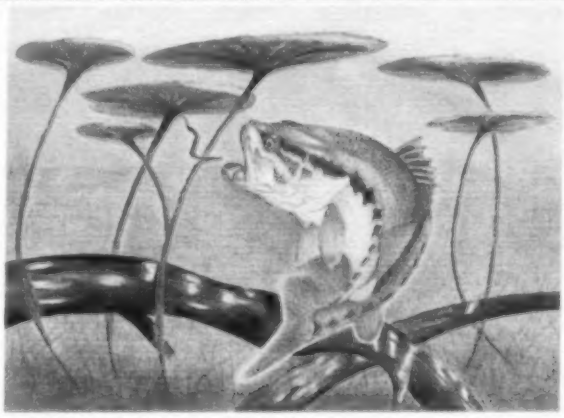
- Participated in and supported committees such as:
    - Big Game Management Advisory Committee,
    - Ontario Moose-Bear Allocation Advisory Committee,
    - Fish & Wildlife Heritage Commission,
    - Human-Wildlife Conflict Advisory Group and Steering Committee,
    - Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee,
    - International Hunter Education Association Canada,
    - Agricultural-Wildlife Conflict Working Group,
    - The Animal Welfare Task Force
    - Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee

INITIATIVES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

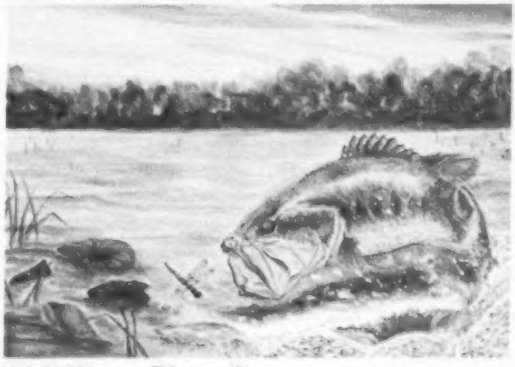
Each year the Ministry manages fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for long-term sustainability, undertakes recovery actions for species at risk, and improves recreational opportunities for angling, hunting and trapping. The following achievements section provides detailed examples of a few initiatives undertaken by the Ministry in 2013-14.

Kids' Fish Art Contest

The 11th annual Kids' Fish Art Contest, a collaboration with the MNRF and corporate partners, looks for winning artwork from Ontario students from grades 4 to 12. The purpose of the contest is to educate elementary school age children on conservation and sustainability and introduce them to angling as a pastime. In 2013, students were to provide a drawing of either a Large-mouth Bass or Bloater and a one-page essay depicting the species' habitat and how to protect it for future generations. The 11th annual Kid's Fish Art Contest Winners for 2013 were:



Catherine Chen – "Tranquility"
Grade 7 to 9 Winner and Overall Winner



Yuk Ki Wong - "Moment"
Grade 10 to 12 Winner

Faith Chiu – untitled
Grade 4 to 6 Winner

The Learn to Fish Program is Getting Ontarians Hooked on Fishing

2013-2014 Learn to Fish Program Highlights:

In 2013, MNRF launched a pilot Learn to Fish program. The goals of the program were to provide new opportunities for individuals, families and children by introducing them to recreational fishing, instilling a passion for conservation of the fisheries resource and increasing participation in fishing.

The highly successful Learn to Fish pilot program was a joint collaboration between the Fish and Wildlife Services Branch and Ontario Parks Learn to Camp program. The program was piloted at four provincial parks: Darlington, Emily, Earl Rowe and Sibbald Point. Building on the popularity and success of the pilot program, expansion and enhanced public outreach is planned for 2014.

The Learn to Fish program was supported by the Ontario Summer Employment Opportunities program, with student leaders assisting the coordination, delivery and promotion of the program. The ministry appreciated support from the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters who provided fishing rods and tackle and the Canadian National Sportsmen's Shows who provided funding for park signage.

Highlights of the 2013 Learn to Fish program:

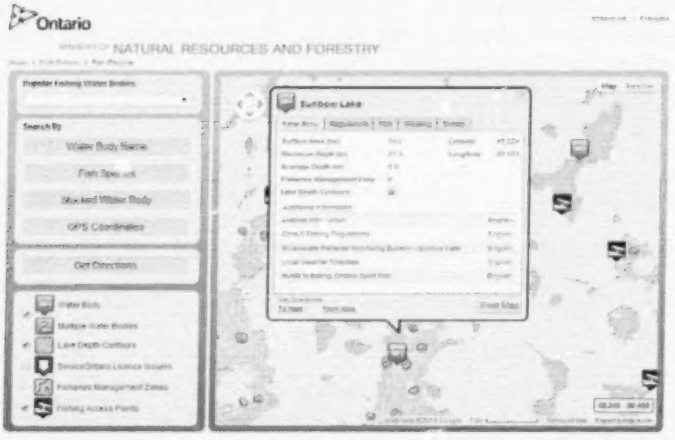
- Promoted at more than 60 community events; reaching more than 8,000 people.
- 138 two-hour sessions were held with a total of 2,341 participants.
- 92% of participants were 'very satisfied' with the quality of instruction, 90% with the equipment provided and 88% with the knowledge of the Learn to Fish leaders.
- 61% of participants indicated that they are 'very likely' to fish again and 26% of participants indicated they were 'somewhat likely' to fish again.

Photo credits this page: Wayne Eardley

Fish ON-Line

In 2011 the MNRF released Fish ON-Line - a web-based, interactive mapping tool to promote recreational fishing in the province. Fish ON-Line provides information on over 13,000 lakes across Ontario including:

- what species of fish are available
- directions to Ontario's lakes and waterways from anywhere in North America;
- where the province is stocking sport fish;
- depth contours for more than 1,100 lakes;
- ServiceOntario locations where fishing licences are sold;
- fishing access points such as boat launches and shoreline fishing opportunities;
- zone-wide and waterbody specific regulations; and
- links to additional information including fish species fact sheets, Ontario Parks, the Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish, local weather forecasts, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Tackleshare program and lake monitoring bulletins.



Fish ON-Line has received both provincial and national media coverage by appearing in more than 40 radio broadcasts, newspapers and electronic media outlets. It has been promoted at the Toronto Sportsmen's Show, Timmins Sportsmen's Show and Thunder Bay Fishing and Hunting Show. In 2013, Fish ON-Line received nearly 125,000 website hits, a 6% increase from 2012; it is one of the most visited pages on the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry website.

Fish ON-Line has provided the people of Ontario open access to government information that has not been traditionally easy to obtain, encouraging anglers to seek out and try new fishing locations.

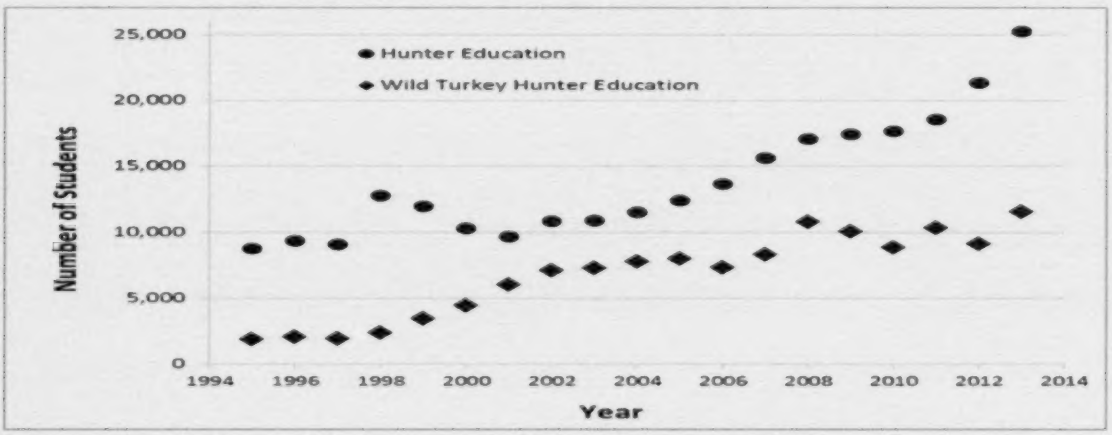
In 2012, a mobile version of Fish ON-Line was released for iOS, BlackBerry and Android devices. It contains most of the functionality of the desktop version and was one of the first mobile friendly applications in the Ontario government.

Hunter Education

Hunter education assists people in understanding the natural world and helps to develop responsible hunters. The MNRF has been involved in hunter education since the 1960's. New hunters of all ages must complete hunter education training in order to purchase their first hunting licence. Since its inception, more than one million people have taken hunter education in Ontario.

Today's Ontario Hunter Education Program is administered by the MNRF in partnership with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. Hunter education is a twelve and a half hour in-class course delivered by a network of over 300 instructors across the province. Hunter education instructors are passionate in teaching new students and moulding responsible new hunters.

Over the last 12 years, enrollment in hunter education has been steadily increasing. In 2013, instructors offered 1,895 Hunter Education courses in Ontario and trained a record 25,235 students. This represents a 19% increase over the previous year.



Hunters in Ontario that wish to hunt wild turkeys must complete the Wild Turkey Hunter Education course. 2013 was also a record year for attendance in the turkey hunter education program with 11,500 students.

Hunter education is the first step in a lifetime of hunting activities. New and seasoned hunters help to ensure the long term sustainability of fish and wildlife management through licence purchases, responsible harvest, and timely reporting over their years as an active hunter.

Photo credits: Top- OFAH; Bottom- Long Point Waterfowl

Youth Trapping Promotes Outdoor Activities for Ontarians

Trapping is the oldest industry in Canada and represents a heritage activity and an important tool for managing furbearer populations. The youth trapping program aims to promote involvement of youth in licensed trapping to promote outdoor heritage recreational activities and pass along family traditions. There are approximately 8,000 licensed trappers in Ontario. An anticipated increase in the number of youth participating in trapping may help reverse a declining trend in the number of trappers resulting from an aging trapping community.

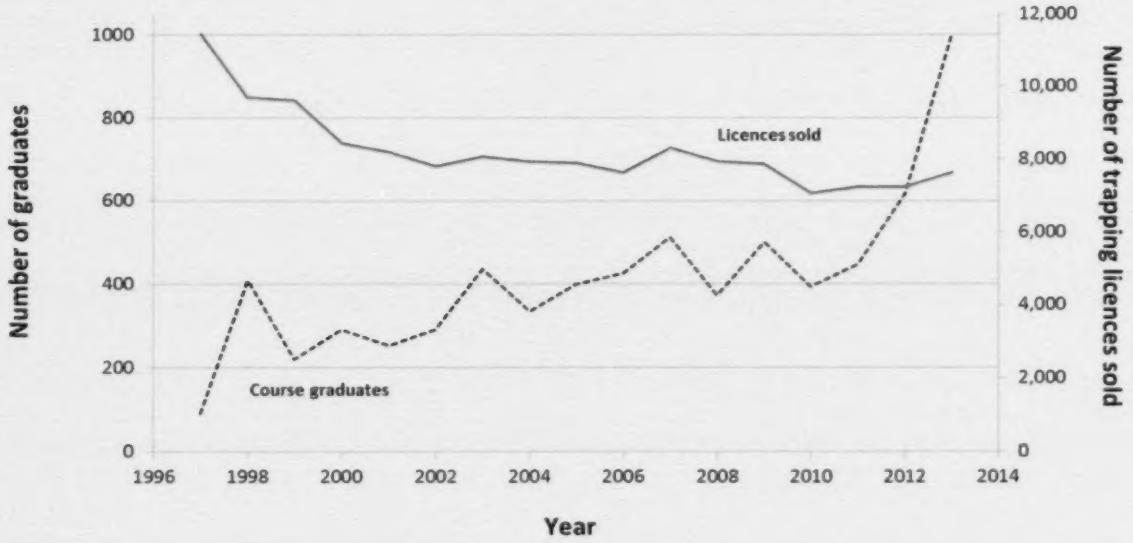


Photo credit: A Chartrand

The youth trapping program was implemented in August of 2013 and enables qualified youth to set traps and prepare and sell the pelts of furbearing mammals under the supervision of a mentor trapper. During the first year of the program, 25 youth obtained trapping licences and the total number of students attending and graduating from the Fur Harvest, Fur Management and Conservation Course nearly doubled (see figure above). A renewed global interest in sustainably harvested fur products signals positive change for the trapping industry in Ontario and will provide youth trappers with a robust economic environment to explore this outdoor activity.

Social Science Helps MNRF Understand Perspectives On Lake Trout Rehabilitation In Lake Huron

Rehabilitation of Lake Trout has been an international priority on Lake Huron since their collapse before 1960. It is expected that Lake Trout populations supported by natural reproduction will provide both stability in the Lake Huron fish community and sustainable harvests.

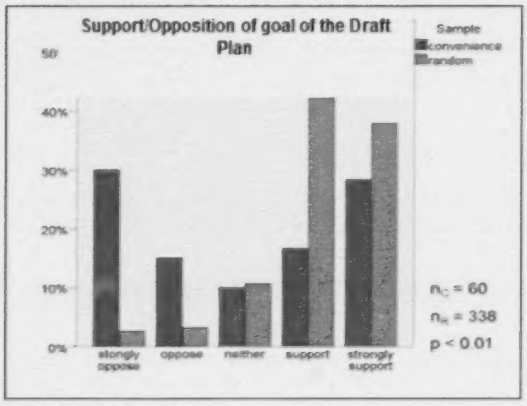
Although Lake Trout are a priority, a variety of perspectives exist with respect to Lake Trout versus other popular species, such as Chinook Salmon, in the Lake Huron recreational fishery.

Due to these different attitudes concerning Lake Trout, the MNRF collected information on perspectives on Lake Trout rehabilitation in Lake Huron. Using established social science survey techniques, two principle survey groups were contacted; informed stakeholders around the lake as well as randomly selected, licenced anglers living close to Lake Huron.

The MNRF is updating the Lake Trout Rehabilitation Plan for Ontario Waters of Lake Huron in consideration of the survey findings and other consultation.

Highlights of the Survey Results:

- Licenced anglers strongly support Lake Trout rehabilitation efforts in Ontario waters of Lake Huron.
- Informed stakeholders (the convenience sample in survey results) were almost evenly split between support and opposition to rehabilitation efforts.
- These results were consistent with both general questions regarding Lake Trout management and more specific questions about the suggested goal in the draft Plan.
- The information collected through the survey has provided important feedback and revealed that opposition to Lake Trout rehabilitation is not a view held by everyone.



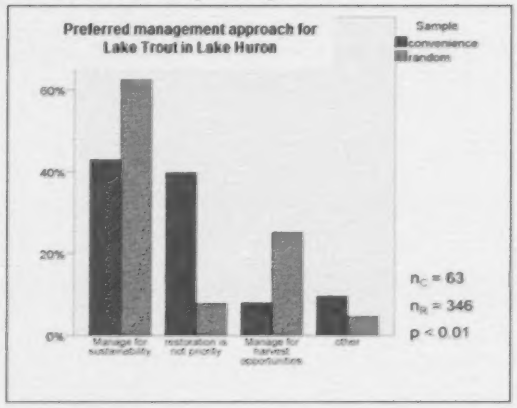


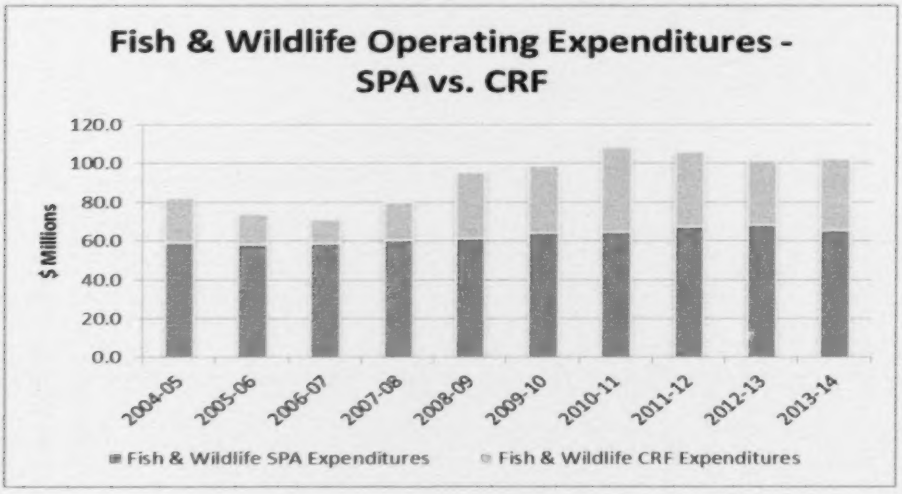
Photo Credit Dave Reid

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Fish and Wildlife Program Expenditures

Fish and Wildlife program expenditures are funded through a combination of FW SPA and general revenues through the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF). Capital expenditures to support the program (i.e. vessels, vehicles, fish culture stations etc.) are funded solely through the CRF.

Operating expenditures for the Fish and Wildlife Program, including enforcement, amounted to $102.7 million in fiscal year 2013-14. Approximately 64% percent of these expenditures ($65.8 million) were supported by recoveries from the FW SPA. The remaining $36.9 million in program expenditures were supported by funding from the CRF. Over the last 10 years the fish and wildlife program expenses have increased while the FW SPA portion of fish and wildlife management activities has remained relatively consistent. The following table summarizes the FW SPA and CRF contributions since 2004-2005.



FW SPA Revenues and Expenditures

The *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* (FWCA) requires that revenues collected under that Act flow into the FW SPA. This includes all licence fees, royalties and fines paid under the FWCA and its regulations. Money held in this account may only be spent on:

- the conservation or management of wildlife or fish populations or the ecosystems of which those populations are a part;
- matters related to the activities of people as they interact with or affect wildlife or fish populations, including any matter related to safety; or
- a refund of all or part of a fee or royalty.

Annual recoveries from the FW SPA are planned based on a 3-year rolling average of expected revenues, due to significant annual fluctuations resulting from the Outdoors Card 3-year purchasing cycle. Treasury Board approves the FW SPA recovery level as part of the Ministry's annual Results Based Plan submission.

TABLE 1
SUMMARY OF REVENUES, RECOVERIES, AND YEAR-END ACCOUNT BALANCES
($ in Millions)

Item	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Plan	2013-14 Actual	2013-14 Variance	2014-15 Plan
Opening Balance	$25.6	$21.1	$12.5	$12.5	$0.00	$19.5
Revenues	$63.1	$60.0	$74.7	$72.8	($1.9)	$64.4
Recoveries	($67.6)	($68.6)	($70.0)	($65.8)	$4.2	$72.4
Year End FW SPA Balance	**$21.1**	**$12.5**	**$17.2**	**$19.5**	**$2.1**	**$11.5**

In 2013-14 revenue was lower than planned which may be due to reduced participation as a result of demographic changes and competing interests, and as a result of changing licence renewal patterns that may cross fiscal years. The total program spending was consistent with prior years, however the FW SPA contribution was less than planned.

TABLE 2
FW SPA REVENUES OVER THE PAST 3 FISCAL YEARS ($ in Millions)

Source of Revenue	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Ontario Resident Angling and Hunting Licences and Permits	$42.9391	$36.2939	$49.0927
Non-Resident Angling and Hunting Licences and Permits	$16.4500	$19.5315	$19.0010
Commercial Fish Licences and Royalties	$1.3280	$1.0267	$1.1965
Bait Fish Licences	$0.3047	$0.2978	$0.2849
Fur Licences and Royalties	$0.8610	$1.1789	$1.2184
Fines and Penalties	$0.8205	$0.6445	$0.7040
Interest	$0.4111	$0.3366	$0.2669
Other Revenue	-$0.0050*	$0.6511	$0.9920
Total Revenue	**$63.1094**	**$59.9610**	**$72.7564**

*** In 2011-12 there is a negative value in Other Revenue as a result of an accounting entry to correct prior year revenues.**

TABLE 3
2013-14 DETAILS OF EXPENSES ($ in Millions)

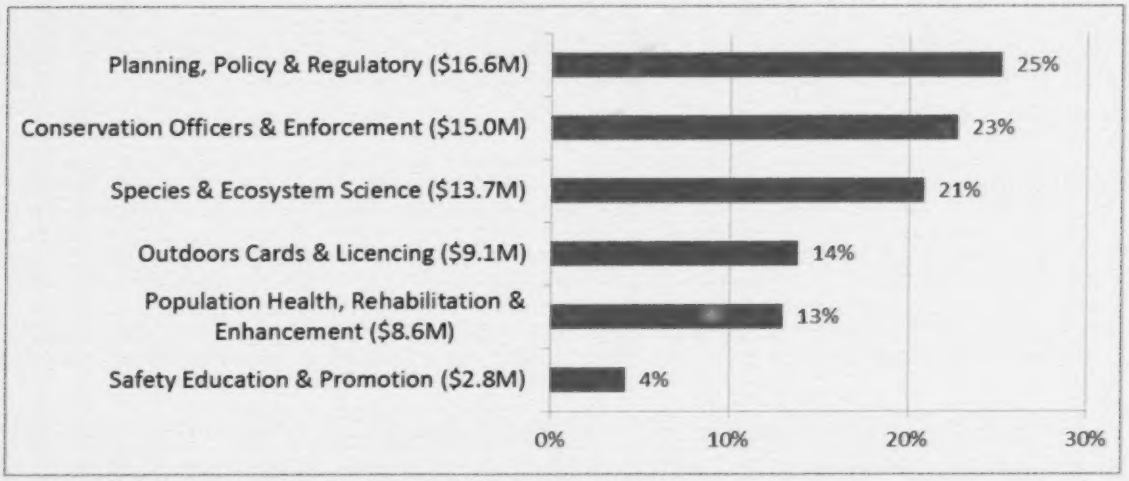
Item	Expenditures
Salaries and Wages	35.2276
Employee Benefits	7.0673
Transportation and Communication	3.1939
Services	16.0684
Supplies and Equipment	4.4098
Total	**65.9670**
Less Recoveries	65.9670^
Net	**0.00**

TABLE 4
2013-14 FW SPA NET TRANSACTIONS ($ in Millions)

Balance at April 1, 2013	Net Transactions for 2013-14	Balance at March 31, 2014
12.5231	6.9894	19.5125

^ Note: There is a $200,000 discrepancy between the 2013-14 FW SPA recovery amount identified in Table 1: *SUMMARY OF REVENUES, RECOVERIES, AND YEAR-END ACCOUNT BALANCES* and the total expenditures and recovery amount in Table 3: *2013-14 DETAILS OF EXPENSES;* this discrepancy matches what is reported in the 2013-14 Public Accounts *Details of Expenses* and *Funds and Other Liabilities* sections. This discrepancy exists to correct a $200,000 error in the 2012-13 Public Accounts which was identified after 2012-13 Public Accounts was closed. Office of the Provincial Controller (OPCD) directed at that time that, as the Public Accounts were closed and the error was not material, it would not be corrected in the 2012-13 Public Accounts; OPCD also directed that MNRF should make the correction and report it in 2013-14 Public Accounts; the result is that in the 2013-14 Public Accounts the total expenditures and recovery amount reported is $200,000 higher than the actual recovery amount.

TABLE 5
2013-14 FW SPA RECOVERIES BY SERVICE CATEGORY ($ in Millions)

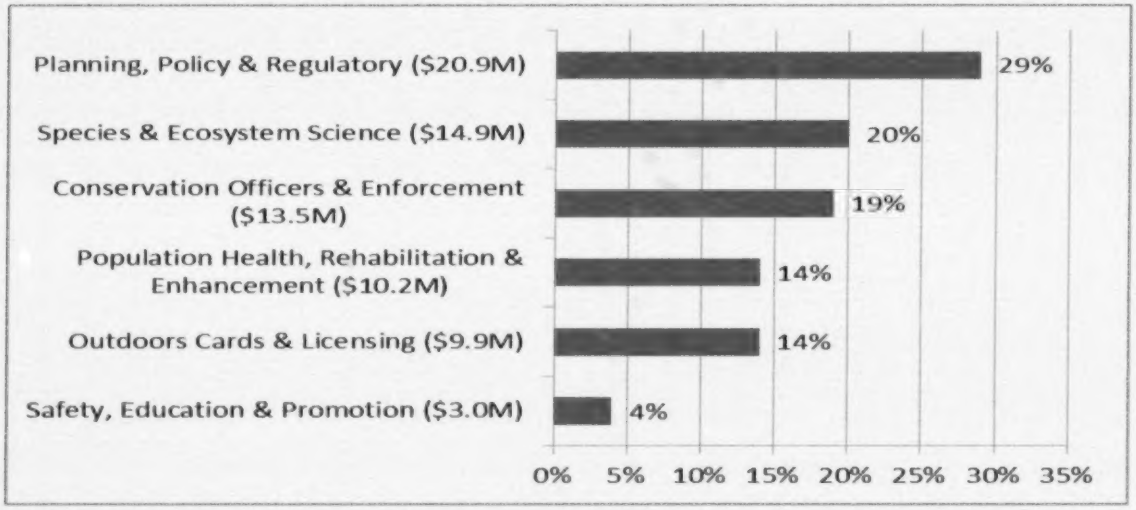


FUTURE DIRECTION

2014-15 FW SPA Budget

For 2014-15, the FW SPA will continue to support priority fish and wildlife management activities and planned expenditures are as follows:

FW SPA 2014-15 $72.4M Plan by Service



In addition to the core work, key strategies for the FW SPA include the following:

Development of a Five Year FW SPA Sustainability Strategy

As a result of decreasing participation in fishing and hunting, the FW SPA revenues are forecasted to decline in the future. A project is underway to develop a five year FW SPA Sustainability Strategy to increase participation in fishing and hunting, and enhance revenues to support fish and wildlife management in Ontario. Public consultations began on preliminary themes and further public consultation will be done through a posting on the Environmental Registry.

A consumer research survey was conducted in 2013-14 to understand population demographics and leisure activities for both Ontario residents and non-residents. The research will be a key component in developing strategies to increase participation in fishing and hunting in Ontario.

Enhance Electronic Service Delivery

The Ministry continues to strive to streamline costs and improve service delivery for customers and one key component is through enhancing electronic services available to the public. The Ministry will continue to enhance the availability of electronic fishing and hunting regulation summaries; purchase products using electronic methods; and enhance public tools such as Fish ON-Line as a premier source for fishing information.